

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 L-03 NIC-01

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R 072053Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4196

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: CRISIS IN MENDOZA RESOLVED

REF: BA-7988

1. SUMMARY: THE CRISIS IN THE MENDOZA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, A RESULT OF THE LEFT-RIGHT CONFLICT WITHIN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOLVED, OR, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, PAPERED OVER. GOVERNOR MARTINEZ BACA WILL RETAIN POST AND WILL NOT BE EXPelled FROM THE MOVEMENT. HE, HOWEVER, AGREED TO AGAIN RECONSTITUTE HIS CABINET. COMPROMISE thus REACHED SUGGESTS SOME POSSIBLE MUTING OF THE LEFT-RIGHT STRUGGLE, AND IS ALSO INTERESTING FOR FACT PERON REFUSED TO TAKE ANY PART IN NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL SOLUTION HAD BEEN FOUND, thus KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN IN ANY DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL LAST WEEK MARTINEZ BACA SEEMED TO HAVE DEFUSED SITUATION IN HIS PROVINCE BY HAVING HIS CABINET RESIGN AND SUGGESTING HE WOULD CONSULT PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF MOVEMENT BEFORE APPOINTING NEW ONE. IN EVENT, HOWEVER, HE APPEARED NOT TO CONSULT WITH COUNCIL--AT LEAST, NOT TO THEIR SATISFACTION; RATHER, HE APPOINTED NEW CABINET ON HIS OWN. COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY

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DECLARED THIS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE AND CRITICIZED GOVERNOR FOR

FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH MOVEMENT. MENDOZA CGT CONTINUED TO DEMAND MARTINEZ BACA'S OUSTER AS GOVERNOR AND EXPULSION FROM PERONIST MOVEMENT, A DEMAND WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE BACKING OF ELEUTERIO CARDOSO, REPRESENTATIVE SENT BY NATIONAL SUPERIOR COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MARTINEZ BACA CAME TO BUENOS AIRES OVER WEEKEND. PRESS INDICATED HE WOULD LAY HIS CASE BEFORE PERON ON MONDAY, NOV 5. PERON, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO BE DRAWN IN AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE GOVERNOR ONLY AFTER ISSUE HAD BEEN SETTLED BY PROPER AUTHORITIES. GOVERNOR THEN WENT INTO HUDDLE WITH INTERIOR MINISTER LLAMBI AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PROVISIONAL SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PERONIST MOVEMENT. AFTER ALMOST TWO DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS, ALL PARTIES CAME TO AGREEMENT. THEY WERE THEN RECEIVED BY PERON, WHO GAVE SOLUTION HIS BLESSINGS. SUBSEQUENTLY, RESOLUTION OF IMPASSE WAS ANNOUNCED TO PRESS. BASIC INGREDIENT WAS STILL ANOTHER REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNOR'S CABINET (TO GET RID OF SUPPOSED "MARXISTS" STILL LURKING THERE). ON THIS POINT, MARTINEZ BACA OBVIOUSLY GAVE SOME GROUND. HE, HOWEVER, EMERGED AT LEAST PARTIAL VICTOR IN THAT HE RETAINED HIS SEAT AND POSITION IN PARTY. INDEED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SENATOR JOSE HUMBERTO MARTIARENA, ISSUED STATEMENT INDICATING ALL MEASURES AGAINST GOVERNOR WERE NOW DROPPED AND URGING ALL LOYAL PERONISTS IN MENDOZA TO COLLABORATE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT WITH HIM.

4. THIS WILL BE VIEWED AS SOMETHING OF A SETBACK TO PROVINCIAL CGT AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAD HOPED FOR NOTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE DISGRACE AND OUSTER OF MARTINEZ BACA. IN THIS, THEY WERE CLEARLY MOTIVATED AT LEAST AS MUCH BY SELF-INTEREST AS BY IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS. GETTING RID OF GOVERNOR WOULD HAVE LEFT VICE-GOVERNOR, CARLOS MENDOZA, IN CONTROL OF PROVINCE-- AND HE IS PROVINCIAL LEADER OF METAL WORKERS UNION (UOM). THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE STRENGTHENED HAND OF LABOR BUREAU- CRACY IMMEASURABLY.

5. THAT CRISIS NOW CONSIDERED TERMINATED IS SEEN IN FACT THAT MARTIARENA ANNOUNCED CARDOSO WILL NO LONGER ACT AS SUPERIOR COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE. "HIS MISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED," MARTIARENA DECLARED TO PRESS.

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6. COMMENT: RATHER THAN FOR ITS OWN MERITS, MENDOZA SITUATION IS INTERESTING FOR INSIGHTS IT MAY PROVIDE WITH RESPECT TO PERONIST LEFT-RIGHT CONFLICT GENERALLY. TWO FACTS EMERGE ABOVE OTHERS: 1) PERON WAS ABLE TO AVOID TAKING ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER PUBLICLY. BEHIND THE SCENES, HE MAY HAVE INFLUENCED THE COMPROMISE--OR EVEN DIRECTLY BROUGHT IT ABOUT. PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, HE KEPT ALL OPTIONS OPEN; 2) IN PART AS A

CONSEQUENCE OF PERON'S CONTINUED PUBLIC NEUTRALITY, AND, THUS,  
REFUSAL TO BACK RIGHT WING ALL THE WAY, LATTER'S HAND WAS AT  
LAST INSTANT WEAKENED AND IT HAD TO ACCEPT SOMETHING OF A  
COMPROMISE WITH THE "LEFT". TO EXTENT THAT THIS IS VICTORY FOR  
MODERATION RATHER THAN FOR ONE EXTREME OR THE OTHER, EMBASSY  
VIEWS IT AS ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.

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